REC. July 23-07

ORRIN G. HATCH
UTAH

PATRICIA KNIGHT
CHIEF OF STAFF

104 Hart Senate Office Building

TELEPHONE: (202) 224–5251
TDD (202) 224–2849
FAX: (202) 224–6331

Website: http://www.senate.gov/~hatch

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–4402

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July 18, 2007

Mrs. Oranna Bumgarner Feltner
Post Office Box 465
Fort Duchesne, Utah 84026

Dear Mrs. Feltner:

Thank you for writing to express your support for repealing the Ute Partition Act of 1954. I welcome the opportunity to respond.

As you know, the mixed-blood Ute Indians voted to terminate tribal status in the 1950s. Based on the vote, Congress enacted the Ute Partition Act. Since the enactment of the Ute Partition Act, there have been at least 24 Federal lawsuits filed claiming that the vote to terminate Ute tribal status was illegitimate. None of the lawsuits, so far, has cast any doubt on the legitimacy of the vote or provided any legal ground to provide reparations.

That said, I understand your concerns and sympathize with your desire to receive tribal recognition. While I have no intention to introduce legislation at this time, I assure you that I will continue to closely monitor this situation, keeping your views in mind.

Again, thank you for bringing your views to my attention.

Sincerely,

Orrin Hatch

Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator

OGH:lsbb

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